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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

Secondly, there is established a seven-man Commission for Equality of Opportunity in Employment. This Commission shall have the power to investigate discrimination in employment in any business concern which holds a Federal government contract or any labor union which works on such contract. I stress, its authority is limited to Federal Government contracts. In addition, employment agencies which are wholly or partially financed by Federal funds shall be subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Civil equality of job opportunity in Federal employment is placed under the Commission's inspection.

If the Commission finds a clear pattern of discrimination, it is given the authority to cut off Government contracts, halt the flow of funds to employment agencies, and order labor organizations to cease discriminating, at the risk of running afoul of nondiscrimination amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. In granting such authority to the Commission, however, we have sought to impose strict safeguards for the rights of all individuals. The right to judicial review is concisely spelled out, while the party affected is given the opportunity to end discriminatory practices prior to the issuance of a formal order by the Commission.

This civil rights bill also authorizes the Attorney General to institute a civil action on behalf of a citizen who claims that he is being denied the opportunity to enroll in a nonsegregated public school. In so granting this right, however, a Federal court is restrained from enjoining a State or local official in such civil action, if there has been constituted a plan to desegregate with all deliberate speed, and unless the complainant has exhausted all State legal remedies.

In the same vein, this civil rights bill authorizes Federal appropriations to aid state or local school boards in desegregating, if a request is made by them for such assistance. The financial aid so authorized, however, is limited to administrative and special, non-teaching professional services, developmental programs and technical assistance. The payment of teachers' salaries, or the financing of construction costs are in no way involved.

Finally, this civil rights bill provides that anyone, otherwise qualified to vote in a Federal election, is presumed to have sufficient literacy and intelligence to vote if he has completed six grades of an accredited elementary school. This provision, of course, does not eliminate the right of a State to use literacy or other intelligence tests as a means of qualifying voters. Even if an individual has a sixth-grade education, the State may show that he is, in fact, illiterate. But the bill does provide a presumption of literacy which will materially assist a court in determining whether literacy tests—and tests of a similar nature—are being used in a manner which unfairly discriminate against certain classes of citizens.

Here, then, is a comprehensive bill which seeks to advance the cause of civil rights in the United States. At the same

time, however, it is a bill keyed to moderation. And the reason for moderation is obvious. We members of the Republican Party are honestly desirous of proposing legislation which stands a chance of enactment. Anyone, of course, can introduce grandiose legislative schemes. But, reaching for the sky, rather than aiming for the possible is a form of showmanship we do not wish to engage in. Reality is what we live by and accomplishment is what we seek.

Of equal importance is the fact that we are a Nation of many people and many views. In such a nation, the prime purpose of a legislator, from wherever he may come, is to accommodate the interests, desires, wants and needs of all our citizens. To alienate some in order to satisfy others is not only a disservice to those we alienate, but a violation of the principles of our Republic. For, only in compromise, moderation, and understanding are we able to fashion our society into a cohesive and durable structure.

I sincerely hope that all Members of Congress, of the executive department and the public will carefully study this proposed legislation and reach out to support it in the spirit in which it is introduced. The sincerity of its purpose, the moderation of its scope, and the reality of intended accomplishment should, we hope, attract wide support.

Mr. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. McCULLOCH] has announced the introduction of his civil rights bill. I am sure that it is unnecessary to state that I shall oppose it. However, I do think it in order to state a few reasons why I think legislation in this field to be unwise, particularly at this time.

Members of this body have been told for years by other Members, principally from the South, that this problem will be worked out in time if left alone. Despite the apparent unwillingness of many to listen to this line of reasoning, the fact, nevertheless, continues to be true. Sometimes I wonder if those who are so vociferous in this field actually want the problem to be solved. So many have run against the South on this political playhouse for so long that they must shudder when they consider the prospect of losing this issue.

Recent events in the South have shown that progress is being made in the field of race relations. Recent events in my own State are an example. But what has been done has been done in spite of, rather than because of, any action taken on this floor or on the floor of the other body. And further action here will serve but one purpose—the continuing, unrelenting, perpetual harassment of the South. Must our people forever be the political scapegoat for vote-hungry politicians?

Mr. Speaker, let us devote our time and our energies to the pursuit of more urgent matters. Let us let the people of the South work out their problems in a peaceful atmosphere while we spend our efforts in finding solutions to the real issues of our time.

OBJECTOR COMMISSION — CONVENTION  
AND PRIVATE CALENDARS

MR. HALLIBURTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to announce the assignments to the objector commission on our side of the aisle.

On the Convention Calendar the objector will be the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. FOULKE], the gentleman from Washington [Mr. FAULK], and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. DOWD].

On the Private Calendar there will be the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. AVERY], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. CONTE], and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. ANDERSON].

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BAY  
OF PIGS INVASION

(Mr. HARVEY of Indiana asked and given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. HARVEY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, at a recent press conference President Kennedy in explaining his responsibility for the Bay of Pigs invasion failure, stated that he had been misquoted by Jack Gore, the editor of the Fort Lauderdale News. Mr. Gore happens to be a friend of mine and he has written me concerning this colloquy which took place between him and the President. I wish to include a letter from Mr. Gore and certain quotes from his paper, the Fort Lauderdale News:

JANUARY 29, 1963.

HON. RALPH HARVEY,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: This will acknowledge your recent note and the enclosed copy of the President's press conference, again, the Bay of Pigs issue.

I quite agree with you that there are some aspects of the President's anger which are quite puzzling and which hardly jibe with the true facts. It has always seemed strange to me that President Kennedy and his brother would go so far out on a limb to ransom the Cuban prisoners and now more or less promise them a full bill of rights, unless they had a guilty conscience about pulling back the air cover which had been promised and which, if it had been used then, could well have saved the whole situation.

I know there are quite a few other people besides myself who are aware of the fact that air cover had been planned for this invasion and was pulled back. And, while Mr. John Knight has said he doesn't recall the subject coming up at the President's luncheon on May 10, 1961, in his Sunday Notebook of January 27, he wrote that the President had actually ordered planes into the air to help the invaders, but they had been called back when it was determined it was too late to save the invading forces.

This is information that was also passed on to us at the luncheon, and it is very strange to me that Mr. Knight would recall this particular item and not be able to remember some of the other things that were discussed.

I note, also, that in this week's National Observer, the comment is made that the President had previously been quoted as saying he had ordered U.S. air cover withheld at the last moment. The National Observer goes on to point out that at least four mem-